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9D-HL-19210
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Abi-Habib et al.

Serial No.: 09/411,496 ✓

Filed: October 4, 1999 ✓

For: WASHING MACHINE BRAKE CAM
ACTUATOR WITH INTERRUPTED
RING ✓

Art Unit: 1746

Examiner: Stinson, Frankie L.

TC 1700

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In response to the Office Action dated June 18, 2003, Applicants elect, with traverse, for prosecution in this application all claims that belong to Group II, i.e., claims 3-20.

A restriction to either invention I, consisting of claims 1 and 2 drawn to a method for reducing noise, classified in class 29, subclass 428, or invention II, consisting of claims 3-20, drawn to a brake for a washing machine, classified in class 68, subclass 23.3, was imposed. In response, Applicants elect with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group II, claims 3-20.

The requirement for election is traversed because the inventions set out by the claims in Groups I and II are clearly related. Reconsideration of the restriction requirement imposed under 35 U.S.C. § 121 is respectfully requested. The restriction requirement is traversed because the

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inventions set out by the claims in Groups I and II are clearly related. Applicants submit that a thorough search and examination of either claim group would be relevant to the examination of the other group and would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. Additionally, requirements for election are not mandatory under 35 U.S.C. §121. Accordingly, reconsideration of the election requirement is requested.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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